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Town of Acton

Planning Department

29 January 2014

Mr. Roland Bourdon, Chair Town of Acton Community Preservation Committee c/o Planning Department Acton Town Hall 472 Main Street Acton, MA 01720

Re: Wright Hill Proposal to CPC

Dear Chairman Bourdon,

I'm writing on behalf of Sudbury Valley Trustees to express our support of the proposal before the CPC to acquire a 13-acre portion of property on Wright Hill in West Acton. The property has many merits that recommend it for permanent preservation, including the following:

- Support of the Town's Open Space and Recreation Plan goals: This property was noted as a priority for protection in the 2002-2007 Open Space and Recreation Plan, and furthers the plan's goals of protecting open space for passive recreation and historic preservation.
- Balancing Growth: Protection of the Wright Hill property would create a lovely piece of open space in an otherwise fairly densely developed part of town.
- **Proximity to existing conservation lands:** The property is adjacent open space associated with the New View Condominium Trust, which in turn abuts the Guggins Brook Conservation area, creating over 100 acres of contiguous conservation land.
- Proximity to sensitive habitat: The nearby conservation land and corridor along Guggins Brook has been identified as Priority Habitat by the state Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program.

Within walking distance of West Acton village, this property represents a great opportunity to create a community open space asset that is accessible to and usable by many. Careful consideration of the various potential uses proposed is needed as this project continues to take shape.

Building on Acton's strong record of land protection, we respectfully recommend CPC approval of the Wright Hill acquisition.

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Sincerely,

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Director of Land Protection

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